

**Standard 4-3** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the conflict between the American colonies and England.

**4-3.1:** Explain the political and economic factors leading to the American Revolution, including the French and Indian War; British colonial policies such as the Stamp Act and the Tea Act and the so-called Intolerable Acts; and the American colonists' early resistance through boycotts, congresses, and petitions.(E, P, H)

**Taxonomy Level:** B 2 Understand / Conceptual Knowledge

**Previous /Future Knowledge:**

In 3rd grade, students explained the causes of the American Revolution-Tea Act-Stamp Act- Intolerable Act- Declaration of Independence and their role in South Carolina history (3-3.1).

In 8th grade, students will summarize the military and economic involvement of S C in the French/British rivalry (8-1.7). Students will also explain the interests and roles of South Carolinians in the events leading to the American Revolution, including the state's reactions to the Stamp Act and the Tea Act; the role of Christopher Gadsden and the Sons of Liberty; and the role of the four South Carolina signers of the Declaration of Independence—Edward Rutledge, Arthur Middleton, Thomas Lynch Jr., and Thomas Heyward Jr. (8-2.1).

**It is essential for students to know:**

**Political factors and economic factors** that ultimately led to the American Revolution started with the **French and Indian War** and culminated with shots fired at Lexington and Concord. It is important that students understand the chronology of these events and how one event led to another. They should understand that **political factors** included the question of whether the Parliament or the colonial assemblies had the right to impose taxes. Economic factors include the need for taxes as a result of the French and Indian War and the power of the colonists to boycott British goods and force British merchants to appeal to Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act.

The **French and Indian War** was fought between France and England over lands in the Ohio River Valley which both the French and the English claimed. The British won the war and gained control of these lands but amassed a large debt as a result of the war. The British Parliament determined that this debt should be paid by the American colonists whose lands the British had been defending. The British government changed its colonial policy. Before the French and Indian War, the British government ignored what was happening in the colonies and let them govern and tax themselves. After the French and Indian War, the British Parliament began to pass a series of laws that changed the relationship between the colonial assemblies and the Parliament. Colonists believed it was the right of their colonial assemblies to impose taxes, not the right of the King or of Parliament and they resisted this changed policy.

The **Stamp Act** placed a tax on all papers, such as legal documents and newspapers. The colonists would pay this directly (taxes before this were indirect duties on imports included in the retail price of the goods and so invisible to the colonial consumer) and protested with the cry "No taxation without representation." Colonists did not have a representative in Parliament and therefore had no voice in Parliament. Colonists wanted to retain the right of their own colonial assemblies to tax to continue to be respected. They did not want representation in Parliament which was distant and in which they would be outvoted. Colonists organized a **Stamp Act Congress**, which sent a **petition** to the King, and a declared a **boycott** on British goods that led to the repeal of the Stamp Act. They also organized the Sons and Daughters of Liberty in order to protest British taxes.

The **Tea Act** was not a tax. This act gave the British East India Company exclusive rights [a monopoly] to sell tea in the colonies because the East India Tea Company had financial problems and Parliament wanted to help the company avoid bankruptcy. Colonists were boycotting tea because of a tax imposed under the Townshend Acts. [Although most of the Townshend duties had been repealed as a result of a successful colonial boycott, the tax on tea remained.]. The Sons of Liberty feared that the availability of cheap tea would threaten the effectiveness of the boycott. In Boston, they threw the tea overboard. The Boston Tea Party resulted in the Parliament passing what the colonists called the Intolerable Acts.

The **Intolerable Acts** closed Boston harbor and took away the right of the colony of Massachusetts to govern itself. The British named these acts the Coercive Acts because they were designed to coerce, or force, the colonists to pay for the dumped tea and recognize the right of the Parliament to make tax laws for the colonies. Colonists sent delegates to a **continental congress** in order to address the problem of the Intolerable Acts. The First Continental Congress established a boycott on all trade with Great Britain and sent a petition to the King. This congress also advised American colonists to arm themselves. This led to the battle of Lexington and Concord and the start of the Revolutionary War.

**It is not essential for students to know:**

Students do not need to know all of the battles of the French and Indian War or the names of the Native American tribes that fought in the war. They do not need to know all of the acts presented by parliament and their dates. Students do not need to know the names of the many Patriots who took part in these protests or the life story of Paul Revere.

**Assessment guidelines:**

Appropriate assessments will require students to **explain** the effects of various political and economic factors that led to the American Revolution. Students should also be able to **summarize** the ways that the American colonists used congresses, boycotts, and petitions to protest British policies. Students should be able to **compare** British colonial policies such as the Stamp Act, the Tea Act and the so-called Intolerable Acts.